

2005  
Cornell University -  
Civil Liberties

# CORNELL RESEARCH IN CIVIL LIBERTIES

## STUDY OF THE CONTROL OF SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES

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JHW  
MAR 14 51  
March 12, 1951

Dr. Joseph H. Willits  
The Rockefeller Foundation  
49 West 49th Street  
New York 20, New York

Dear Joe:

I thought I should have been in New York before now or I would have written you before to report progress on our study as well as to discuss one or two other items.

The Gellhorn book appears to have been successful and well-received. I am sending along under separate cover copies of the more important reviews of it in the thought that you might not have seen them. Cornell University Press tells me that they have sold between 2000 and 2500 copies and when the reviews in the law journals and other professional journals appear, the sales will probably increase somewhat. That is not a very wide sale, but it certainly breaks even on the book and on the whole is not doing too badly.

I never knew what happened about the Fulton Lewis, Jr. threat last fall. It certainly looked for a while as though we were going to take a public beating from that quarter on the Gellhorn book, but nothing ever happened. It is not impossible that the interview which Gellhorn and I had with the Counterattack people last summer may have protected us a bit here, although I am not sure. Senator McCarthy did make a not very virulent attack on Gellhorn in the long piece he read into the Appendix to the Congressional Record in October, entitled "The Loyalty of Scientists." In that article he attacked so many people far more conspicuous than Gellhorn that none of the press accounts mentioned us at all.

You perhaps saw the very mild comment by George Sokolsky a few weeks back, but in case you didn't I am enclosing a copy. This seemed too unimportant to bother with. If the worst thing he could think of about Gellhorn is the fact that he was associated with Open Road we are getting off pretty easy. Gellhorn was associated with Open Road in 1919 and 1920, at which time I believe Livingston Farrand was head of the organization.

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Three more books are either in press or on their way. The Barrett book on the Tenney Committee in California is now in page proof and should be out in April. Lawrence Chamberlain's book on the legislative control of subversive activities in New York is just about to go to the printer. Countryman's monograph on the Canwell Committee in the state of Washington is being edited by the press editors at the moment.

Walter Gellhorn has turned over to me the completed manuscript of the rather substantial volume entitled The States and Subversion which deals with state programs for the control of subversive activities in general and contains six or seven chapters on individual states. I have not had time to go through this before releasing it to the printer.

I have seen twelve chapters of Bob Carr's book on the House Committee on Un-American Activities. We will have the manuscript of that in about six weeks. It is a superb piece of work - very temperate and very fair, but very revealing of the policies and procedures of the Committee. It has exactly the tone and temper which I have been hoping for all along.

Eleanor Bontecou is not quite as far along with the book on the Loyalty Program, but several chapters are in manuscript and she expects to have it in my hands in May. What I have seen of it is excellent.

I have been giving a good deal of thought to the summarising volume which I shall write to round out the series. I have actually done a good deal of work on this but have not really undertaken to produce any manuscript. I want to see the Bontecou and Carr studies before I get too far into it.

Also, I hope to come down to New York before too long and have a talk with you about this particular part of the project. I want to talk to you, not as an official of the Rockefeller Foundation, but as a friend whose shrewd judgment I rely on very heavily and whose thinking about these problems I would very much like to check against my own. I will give you some warning on this and perhaps we could arrange to have lunch together.

It will certainly not be possible to get all of the volumes in our series published this spring. They will, however, all appear during the present calendar year. I think we should be governed a little by the current political situation in deciding whether to try to publish any volumes in the middle of the summer unless there is some real reason for doing so. It is much better from the publishers standpoint to hold off until after Labor Day, when most people are back on their jobs after their summer vacations. However, every-

Dr. Joseph H. Willits

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thing seems to be under control and I think the entire task will be finished up within six months.

With best regards,

Yours ever

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bob", written in dark ink.

Robert E. Cushman

REC:JWS  
Enclosure